

STEAMER GRAVEYARD

New Jersey Town Where Many Old Eastern Vessels Lie.

Well-Known River Craft That Have Become Worn Out Find a Resting Place on the Raritan's Banks.

It appears to have been left for the residents of the little town of Perth Amboy to prove that the Hindoo belief in the transmigration of souls is a reality, at least, as far as boats are concerned, says the St. Louis Republic.

Steam craft which in years gone by made great records in the local waters and later were dragged out of the busy swirl of the struggle, are to-day so much a part of the Raritan river town that their names are household words there.

The graveyard of old vessels has had a day of resurrection.

The valiant spirit of each has left cold boiler and paralyzed engine to take up its abode in dwellings, decorations and the hundred and one things into which its dismembered but resurrected body has been transformed.

During the last few years many well-known boats have been brought together on the shelving banks of the Raritan river, where the junkman decides their destiny.

The giants of them all is the famous old Albany boat Drew.

Close beside her are the fire-ravaged hulls of the ferryboats Elizabeth and Mainfield.

The worn-out ferryboat Central and the ill-fated Northfield are rubbing their noses in a friendly way with the rise and fall of the tide against the Drew's port quarter.

The half-burned Thomas McManus keeps well under water on the river side of the fleet.

The side-wheel steamer Colonia, of Philadelphia, which was condemned as unseaworthy after the last international yacht race, and the famous old ferryboat Chancellor, the only craft to cross the bay during the blizzard of 1884, have both settled high up in the sands.

These boats represent more than \$1,000,000 in original cost, and are in all stages of dismantlement.

Probably one of the greatest booms that ever came to Perth Amboy was the steamer Drew.

She was towed to her present berth a little more than a year ago.

From the outside she appeared to be a great unwieldy hulk of little value, but within she has proved to be a veritable treasure ship.

Houses have been built from the well-seasoned planking of her superstructure.

The panel work and rich carvings of her 400 and more staterooms have been used for interior decorations, and the staterooms themselves for storehouses.

There is one stateroom which has been left just where it was when the old river boat made her last trip.

Money cannot buy it from the junkman.

The pleasant memories of his homonym still linger with it.

From one end of the craft to the other it is the only spot which will not feel the sharp edge of the wreckers' tools.

With the exception of that part of the Drew which has been used by the junkman himself in the construction of living quarters for his men and a combination office and storehouse, in the heart of the town, all the material has been sold at a good price.

An elderly widow is the proud owner of a comfortable home made entirely from the Drew.

Her dog and chickens are also snugly housed within a portion of the resurrected craft.

So extravagant were the builders of the boat in the selection of materials used for her construction that carpenters and decorators of the town have purchased almost the entire superstructure, although it is as yet not more than half dismantled.

In the building trade there is a demand for "Drew timber" and among decorators a call for "Drew trimmings."

The foregoing is the spirit of the Drew made manifest in Perth Amboy.

It is not confined there alone, however, for all over the country there is a demand for some part of her construction.

The giant parts of her engines have already gone to the steel works of Pennsylvania and Connecticut to be fashioned into car wheels, axles and building material.

Side-Track. Epitaph was the subject; the Riggs house, Washington, was the place, and Lafa Pence, former representative, was the speaker. He said:

"I remember one that adorned the cemetery at Leesville, in the palm days of that great mining camp. It seems that in the course of a barroom brawl one Jim O'Brien, a well-known character, had his existence terminated prematurely. He was a good fellow in the main, and not without friends. One of the dead man's associates, in deep grief over his demise, erected a wooden slab over his grave, on which he had written in large letters:

"Jim O'Brien departed for heaven at 9:30 a. m."

A local humorist happened along soon afterward and appended the following:

"Heaven, 4:20 p. m.—O'Brien not yet arrived. Intense excitement. The worst is feared."—Buffalo Times.

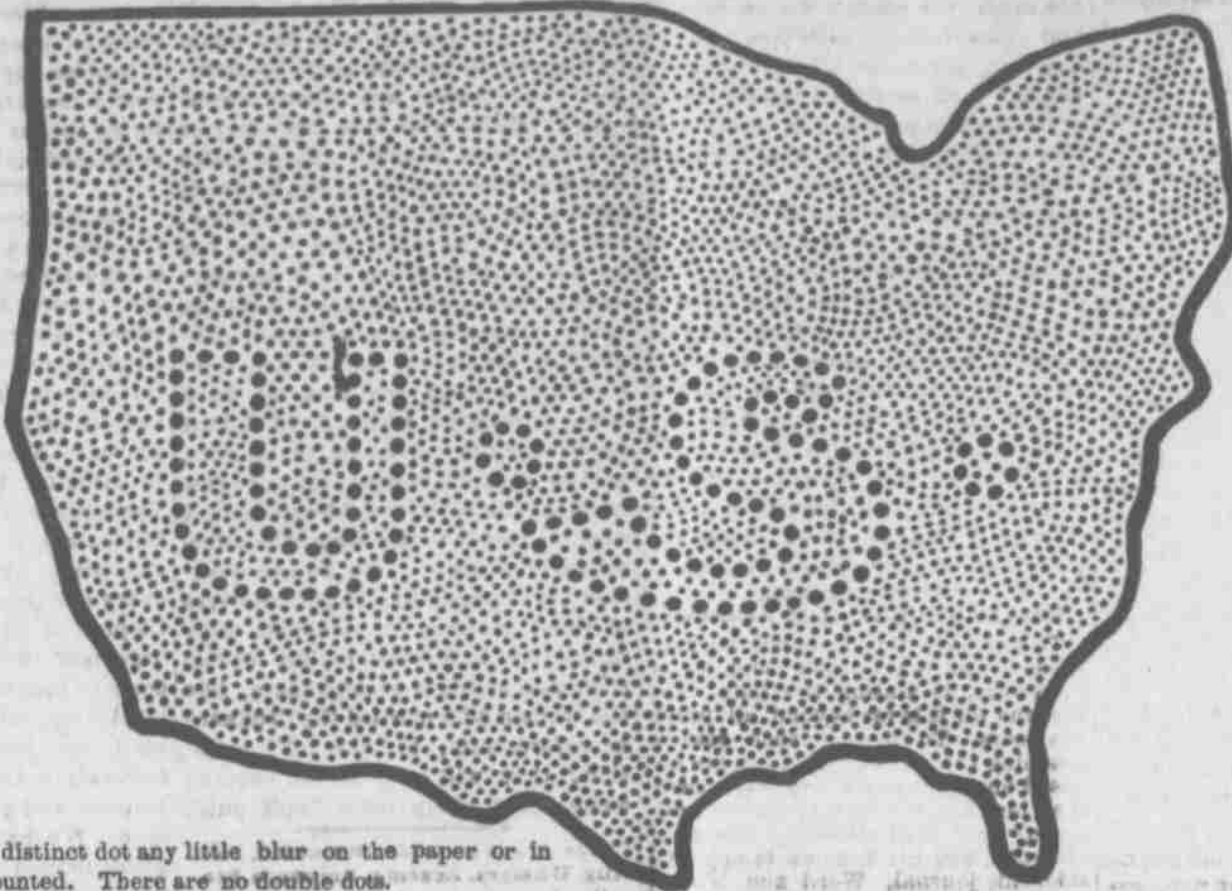
The German government proposes the acquisition of six private railways in Prussia. The railroads of Germany are partly owned by the government and part by private corporations.

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AWARDS WILL BE MADE AS FOLLOWS: The person coming nearest the correct number, and suggesting best plan of counting gets first prize, next nearest second prize, and so on down the list.

THE PIANOS will be awarded to those who count correct or nearest correct, one to a lady the other to a gentleman. If there should be a tie in the count for any prize it will be awarded to the person suggesting best plan of counting the dots. This tries your wit. Now get to work and think up the best scheme of counting them. It will earn you a piano. It is likely the person giving nearest the correct count will win as it is no easy matter to count these dots.

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These are fine prizes and in order to give ladies and gentlemen each an equal opportunity one will go to a lady, and one to a gentleman. Mark your subscription blank below stating whether you wish to enter "ladies' contest" or "gentlemen's contest." Two different members of a family may compete, one in the ladies' and the other in the gentlemen's contest if they wish, but we will not send duplicate copies of Successful Farming or our own paper to the same family. After all arrears to our paper are paid \$1.50 pays for one year's subscription to both Successful Farming and our paper and entitles you to own count or \$2.00 pays for both papers two years and entitles you to the grand special prize of \$150.00, trans counts, and by taking one on each side of what you think is the correct number you are more likely to win and besides if you win you get the grand special prize of \$150.00, which you do not get if you only have one year paid in advance. See below in regard to special prizes.

GRAND SPECIAL PRIZES.—To the gentleman and lady winning the Pianos will be given an additional Cash Prize of \$100.00 each if they have three advance subscription counts entered. That is have all arrears paid and two years in advance to Successful Farming and our paper at \$1.50 per year for the two. If you win the piano and have paid one year at \$1.50 the judges will give you the piano only. If you win the piano and have two years paid you get \$150.00 extra. It will pay all to have the three advance counts.

PLEASE NOTE.—There is no element of chance, or guess work or lottery about this. It is a test of skill, pure and simple. If you can count the dots correctly you can win. The number of prizes is so large you are bound to hit it somewhere.

CONDITIONS.—The contest is open to all, both old and new subscribers. Old subscribers in arrears must pay arrears and in advance to get counts as above. Advance subscription must be at \$1.50 per year which pays for one year in both Successful Farming and our paper, and entitles you to one count. \$2.00 pays for both papers two years and entitles you to three counts, and makes you eligible for the grand \$150.00 Special Prize.

THE PIANOS.—They are the well known Schiller. You may have any wood you wish, light or dark, Oak, Walnut or Mahogany. The Schiller is standard and we will not publish lengthy description. It depends entirely upon your efforts whether you get one of them and \$200.00 in cash extra.

KEY TO DOTS.—To all who wish it, and will write on separate sheet of paper "Send me key to dots" and sign your name and P. O. and enclose 10 cents to cover expense we will at close of contest send you a key to the dots showing just how many there are. Every contestant should order one, but it is not necessary unless you wish one. No key will be sent out until close of contest.

CERTIFICATES.—Successful Farming will issue you a certificate receipt showing number of your counts, certifying counts have been turned over to the judges. No counts not receipted for by Successful Farming will be entered in the contest but do not send your counts to Successful Farming; send them to us and we will forward them.

Contest closes April 15, 1903, but get your counts in at once. The earlier the better. We will add \$25.00 to the \$200 cash prize if you send your counts in before March 1, 1903. It depends on you whether you get the \$25.00 extra. To do it you must get your counts in at once. Any contestant having three advance subscription counts entered may enter additional counts at 25 cents each.

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